

Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance prior to completing this form

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
(2) AUTHORITY <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
<p>The Council is renewed in furtherance of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. §§ 742a-742j), the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 777-777k), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 661-667e). This renewal is in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2. The role of the Council was expanded by Executive Order No. 12962 of June 7, 1995 (60 Fed. Reg. 30769, June 9, 1995), as amended by Executive Order No. 13474 of September 26, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 57229, October 1, 2008).</p>
(3) MISSION/FUNCTION <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
<p>The Council advises the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Director), on aquatic conservation endeavors that benefit recreational fishery resources and recreational boating and that encourage partnerships among industry, the public, and government.</p>
(4) POINTS OF VIEW <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC,</i> <i>(a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered;</i> <i>(b) consider indentifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and</i> <i>(c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>
<p>The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) are ex-officio members. The Council may consist of no more than 18 members and up to 16 alternates appointed by the Secretary for 2-year terms. Appointees are selected from among, but not limited to, the following national interest groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) State fish and wildlife resource management agencies (2 members—one a Director of a coastal State and one a Director of an inland State); (b) Saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing organizations; (c) Recreational boating organizations; (d) Recreational fishing and boating industries; (e) Recreational fishery resources conservation organizations; (f) Tribal resource management organizations; (g) Aquatic resource outreach and education organizations; and (h) The tourism industry.

Members will be senior-level representatives of recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation organizations, and must have the ability to represent their designated constituencies.

The DFO will develop a candidate list that will be evaluated by the FWS Director.

The resulting top candidates will be vetted by the White House Liaison and approved for appointment. Formal letters of invitation to serve on the Committee will be extended by the Secretary.

A vacancy on the Committee will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Members are appointed as representatives.

(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS

List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC

N/A

(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should:

- (a) describe the process*
- (b) identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name)*
- (c) briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and*
- (d) state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable*

Because the Council charter does not include membership slots for the general public, the Service seeks committee members by consulting existing and former members, through relevant professional and trade associations, and through networks of partner and stakeholder organizations. Although the Council does not use a formal Federal Register notice, a vacancy announcement is distributed through the communications resources of the representative organizations listed in the Council charter. Because the charter requires specific interests to be represented by senior-level members of the organizations, the professional or personal qualifications and experience of members relevant to the functions and tasks of the Council are easily discernible.

The Council's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and staff within the Division of Program and Partnership Support and the External Affairs program help assure that there is balanced representation on the Council by reviewing vacancy announcements, ensuring a wide variety of organizations are given the opportunity to submit requests for appointment, and reviewing incoming requests for diversity and adequate geographical representation.

Committee vacancies are immediately addressed by seeking a replacement from the same organization. If the vacating organization cannot be represented, we search for a person from another similar national interest to replace the vacating member/interest.

(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE

Subcommittees subject to FACA should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different*

**This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.*

Subcommittees are not subject to FACA because they are not providing advice directly to a Federal Officer of the Department of the Interior. All advice or work products go directly to the parent Committee for review, consideration and deliberation at a FAC meeting before being submitted to the Department of the Interior through the DFO.

(8) OTHER

Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC

N/A

(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED

Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated

05/11/12